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Action

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TO: Secretary of State

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INTENTION USG RAISE SUBJECT SOVIET FLIGHTS CUBA IN POLAD DISCUSSED FONOFF. FONOFF REPRESENTATIVE STATED UK GOVT SYMPATHETIC US PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS CUBA BUT OF COURSE FORCED CONSIDER UK PUBLIC OPINION IN DEVELOPING METHODS DESIGNED PREVENT USSR-CUBAN FLIGHTS. UK GOVT NOW CONSIDERING STEPS TREAT SOVIET OVERFLIGHT PROBLEM IN CIVIL AVIATION CONTEXT BASED ON PRINCIPLE RECIPROCITY. SPECIFIC APPROACH STILL NOT DETERMINED BUT MIGHT BE ALTERNATIVELY (A) REQUEST FOR AS MANY OVERFLIGHTS AS SOVIETS HAVE SO FAR CONDUCTED OVER UK TERRITORY PRIOR NEXT PERMISSION FOR SOVIET OVERFLIGHT, (B) REQUEST FOR INDETERMINATE NUMBER OVERFLIGHTS WITH FIRST FLIGHT SCHEDULED SOON. UNDER EITHER APPROACH BRITISH FEEL RUSSIANS WOULD REFUSE WHICH WOULD PRESENT UK WITH SUITABLE JUSTIFICATION TURN DOWN ADDITIONAL SOVIET OVERFLIGHT REQUEST AND WHICH WOULD PLACE UK IN SATISFACTORY POSITION VIS-A-VIS UK PUBLIC OPINION TO ANSWER CHARGES THAT UK MERELY RESPONDING TO AMERICAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. FONOFF REPRESENTATIVE CAREFUL POINT OUT UK ACTION THIS MATTER MAY REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME WORK OUT. GAVE IMPRESSION THAT BOAC REQUIREMENT FOR OVERFLIGHTS SOVIET TERRITORY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN EQUATION. FONOFF APPEARS TO BE OF OPINION JOINT ACTION THROUGH NATO BEST WAY TO APPROACH PROBLEM BUT CAUTIONS AGAINST EXPECTATION IMMEDIATE

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APPARENTLY UK GOVT SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT UK PUBLIC
OPINION DOES NOT VIEW CUBAN SITUATION WITH SAME SERIOUSNESS
AS US CIRCLES AND FEELS THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN MUST BE
PRESENTED AS MEETING UK NATIONAL INTEREST.

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